

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /048 W

-----124273 281159Z /44

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1237

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3812

E.O. 11652: AGDS 1, 2

TAGS: PINS, PDEV, ECON, NG

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE-PERSONAL
NOTES

1. AMBASSADOR AND NEW DCM MET WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AUGUST 25. IN ADDITION TO COVERING INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND BI-LATERAL RELATIONS (SEPTELS), KOUNTCHE PROVIDED INTERESTING GLIMPSE OF HIS STYLE OF OPERATION AND HIS WAY OF REJUVENATION, AFTER LONG HOURS ON JOB.

2. KOUNTCHE ADMITTED IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING VERY HARD IN RECENT DAYS, CONFIRMING REPORTS WE HAD RECEIVED EARLIER, HE SAID HE WAS ENGAGED IN BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS. HE SAID THAT ALL THE MINISTERS PROPOSED LARGE BUDGETS AND HE WAS REQUIRED TO REFEREE AMONG THEIR CONFLICTING CLAIMS ON LIMITED NATIONAL RESOURCES. HE SAID THAT DISPUTES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS MINISTERS AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE COULD BECOME QUITE HEATED BUT HE STEPPED IN AS REFEREE AND SETTLED THE ARGUMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIORITIES AND RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS WHICH HE HAD ALREADY SET DOWN.

3. WHEN AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT THIS MUST BE EXTREMELY WEARING FOR HIM PERSONALLY, KOUNTCHE AGREED THAT WAS TRUE
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BUT REMARKED THAT HE REFRESHED HIMSELF BY PLAYING WITH HIS CHILDREN EVERYDAY, RELAXING WITH HIS FAMILY AND GETTING PLENTY OF SLEEP. HE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED FAMILY LIFE HE SAID, AND HE GOT PLENTY OF GOOD SOUND SLEEP. NORMALLY HE WOULD RETIRE AT ABOUT 10 P.M. AND WAKE UP AT ABOUT 6 OR 6:30 A.M.. EXCEPT WHEN TRAVELING, IA ALWAYS TOOK A SIESTA DURING THE AFTERNOON. THIS , COMBINED WITH OCCASIONAL

TRIPS OUT OF THE CAPITAL REJUVENATED HIM SUFFICIENTLY SO
THAT HE COULD CARRY HIS HEAVY BURDEN OF OFFICIAL DUTIES. HE
ADDED THAT CHIEF OF STATE MUST ALWAYS BE ALERT AND WORKING.
WHENEVER THERE ARE ANY LAPSES OR ABSENCES BY A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT,
SOMETHING COMES UNRAVELLED.JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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